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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Send-off ceremony Tuesday for 232nd Military Intelligence Company

A send-off ceremony to bid farewell to 30 soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 232nd Military Intelligence Company will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2005, at the Guard's state headquarters armory, 2400 Wright St., Madison.

The soldiers' families and friends will be joined at the send-off by local elected officials and the top leadership of the Wisconsin National Guard. Music will be provided by the 132nd Army band.

The unit received orders Sept. 23, and unit members reported for active duty Oct. 29. Soldiers will report to Fort Sill, Okla., later Tuesday. The unit will eventually deploy overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan after they complete mobilization processing and additional training at Fort Sill.

With this latest mobilization, the Wisconsin Guard will have about 2,120 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, approximately 980 are currently deployed overseas and about 1,050 others — including the military intelligence company soldiers — are eventually bound for overseas missions. One 650-soldier infantry battalion returned home during the past two weeks.

Except for the newly-returned infantry battalion soldiers, the Guard's remaining soldiers and airmen remain ready to provide a wide range of military support in the event of emergencies in Wisconsin or to protect against terrorist threats in the state.

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EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: News media organizations are welcome to cover this send-off event. Prior arrangements are not required, however news media representatives need to enter the building at the main entrance (corner of Wright Street and Minuteman Drive) and sign in.

News media may photograph the event and interview consenting soldiers and families.

Current National Guard News Releases available at: http://dma.wi.gov/news.asp